

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A medical device insertion apparatus, comprising:
an access tube defining a central lumen and a retention portion disposed at a distal end of the access tube, the retention portion reconfigurable between a first configuration of reduced lateral extent and a second configuration of increased lateral extent;
a trocar moveably disposed within the central lumen of the access tube; and
an overtube defining a central lumen, the access tube movably disposed within the central lumen of the overtube.
2. The medical device insertion apparatus of claim 1 wherein the trocar includes a connector portion at a proximal end thereof and wherein the access tube includes a mating connector portion at a proximal end thereof, the connector portion couplable with the mating connector portion such that when coupled the trocar is rigidly joined to the access tube.
3. The medical device insertion apparatus of claim 1 wherein the access tube includes a first sheath and a second sheath, the first sheath movably disposed within the second sheath.
4. The medical device insertion apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retention portion includes a first wing and a second wing.

5. The medical device insertion apparatus of claim 4 wherein the overtube includes a first slot and a second slot and wherein, when the retention portion is in its second configuration of increased lateral extent, the first wing is receivable within the first slot and the second wing is receivable within the second slot.

6. The medical device insertion apparatus of claim 1 wherein the overtube includes a retention portion disposed at a distal end of the overtube and wherein the retention portion of the overtube is reconfigurable between a first configuration of reduced lateral extent and a second configuration of increased lateral extent.

7. The medical device insertion apparatus of claim 3 wherein the first sheath includes a connector and wherein the second sheath includes a connector, the connector of the first sheath couplable with the connector of the second sheath.

8. The medical device insertion apparatus of claim 3 wherein the retention portion is configured in the second configuration of increased lateral extent by moving the second sheath distally with respect to the first sheath.

9. The medical device insertion apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first sheath includes a second connector, the second connector of the first sheath disposed distally of the first connector of the first sheath, and wherein the second connector of

the first sheath is couplable with the connector of the second sheath.

10. The medical device insertion apparatus of claim 3 wherein the retention portion is formed on the second sheath of the access tube.

11. A method of inserting a medical device into a patient comprising the steps of:

inserting a trocar and access tube through a body wall of the patient, wherein the trocar is disposed within the access tube and wherein a retention portion disposed at a distal end of the access tube is configured in a first configuration of reduced lateral extent;

configuring the retention portion in a second configuration of increased lateral extent;

removing the trocar from the access tube;

inserting an overtube around the access tube and through the body wall, wherein the access tube is received within a central lumen of the overtube and wherein the retention portion is received through a slot defined by the overtube;

configuring the retention portion in the first configuration of reduced lateral extent;

removing the access tube from the central lumen of the overtube; and

inserting the medical device within the central lumen of the overtube and through the body wall.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of coupling the trocar to the access tube.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the access tube includes a first sheath and a second sheath and wherein the step of inserting the trocar and access tube through the body wall of the patient includes the steps of rigidly coupling the first sheath to the second sheath and rigidly coupling the trocar to the access tube.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the access tube includes a first sheath and a second sheath and wherein the step of configuring the retention portion in a second configuration of increased lateral extent includes the step of moving the second sheath distally with respect to the first sheath.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein a retention portion is disposed at a distal end of the overtube and further comprising the step of configuring the retention portion of the overtube in a configuration of increased lateral extent after the step of inserting the overtube around the access tube and through the body wall.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the medical device is a gastro-intestinal tube.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the body wall includes an abdominal wall and a gastric wall.